



# Town of Wenham

Selectmen / Town Administrator

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Board of Selectmen  
**FROM:** Peter Lombardi, Town Administrator  
**RE:** Town Administrator's Report  
**DATE:** February 20, 2018

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### **Regional Dispatch**

The operational, management, and financial audit report on the ECRECC was released last week. Its findings are consistent with what had been discussed at the February 6 Selectmen's meeting in terms of critical areas to address going forward for that program to remain sustainable. Based on our discussion at that meeting, I have since met with the Town Managers in both Danvers and Hamilton regarding potential opportunities to collaborate with either of them on a different regional dispatch model. The Hamilton BOS and FinCom expressed their support for moving forward with a feasibility study for Wenham to rejoin with Hamilton at their joint meeting last week. I expect to hear back from Danvers after their BOS meeting tonight but was informed that partnering with a neighboring community on regional dispatch was one of the Board's top goals this year, so I expect strong support to move forward on their end as well.

I am meeting with MRI next week to develop a scope of work that will look at both options and will then present on their draft proposal sometime in March. In the meantime, we will be discussing the FY19 budget at our RECC Board meeting later this week and I expect that our annual assessment of \$82k will not increase next year based on the materials I have been provided.

### **Regional Water Planning Grant**

In Fall 2016, we were awarded \$104k in grant funding through MassDEP's Sustainable Water Management Initiative in conjunction with the Massachusetts Water Works Association and several other area communities (Danvers, Middleton, Topsfield, Hamilton, and Lynnfield Water District) to collect and share data and explore potential regional solutions to address our collective water resource constraints. The resulting report, released last summer, identified some potential long-term solutions and documented the enhanced conservation practices that many Ipswich River basin water suppliers already have in place. At the time, there was general consensus among the parties involved in this project that further due diligence around some of the recommendations in the report was warranted.

In September 2017, we applied for DEP grant funding to conduct the next phase of study and analysis work associated with this ongoing regional water resources initiative, focusing particularly on the need for and feasibility of supply side solutions. Earlier this month, we were notified that we received \$160k in state funding to engage with our other grant partners on this next step. Our local match contribution will not exceed \$4,500. This project and all related deliverables will be completed by this summer.

### **Main Street Signalization**

We were awarded about \$30k in Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) technical assistance through the Safety and Operations Analysis at Selected Intersections program – one of only two intersections across the entire MPO region (101 municipalities in Greater Boston) that they are looking at this year (and they only do these studies every other year). Last week, we held the kick-off meeting for this project with CTPS and MassDOT. CTPS expects to do much of their initial work in the next two months and plans to meet with us again in April once they have completed their analysis and developed conceptual designs. A final report will then be issued over the summer that will include most but not all of the necessary components of a Functional Design Report, which is needed to move on through the next phase of MassDOT approvals.

CTPS is very much interested in getting input from our local officials and seems very willing to work with the Town throughout the process. Having MassDOT's involvement at this early stage will be key to getting their support to implement the recommendations that come out of this assessment. Based on early indications, I would expect CTPS' findings will include the installation of at least one signal in the corridor on Main Street between Cherry Street and Arbor Street and making several additional lower cost modifications to the downtown corridor to improve vehicular and pedestrian safety.